

Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Child Care Licensing (CCL) Systems Improvement Team
June 2014

Team Purpose:

The CCL Systems Improvement Team serves in an advisory capacity to the KDHE Child Care Licensing Program. The Team focuses on efforts that support families and provide protections to children in regulated child care settings by:

- Assisting the CCL Program in reviewing protocols to determine effectiveness and to identify opportunities to increase efficiency in program operations;
- Guiding the CCL Program in its efforts to publicize the purpose of the regulatory program and to increase transparency in the inspection process; and
- Assisting in the development of written materials that inform parents and the public and that support providers in their efforts to provide healthy, safe and nurturing environments for young children.

Guiding Principles:

The group is guided by the following principles:

- Focus on ensuring child safety and well-being
- Achieve a balance between issues of safety, best practice and marketplace realities
- Maintain a network of quality providers designed to serve all children and youth in need of services
- Start from an understanding of the current system
- Be data driven (When presenting data provide enough context so that a common language and understanding can be developed. Also present research in its entirety so that it is kept in context.)
- Work to eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic barriers and inefficiencies
- Create a process for continuous quality improvement of the child care licensing system for young children (including child care homes, child care centers and preschools)

Boundaries/Expectations:

- Work within existing resources (people/dollars)
- Participants come to the table ready to share their knowledge and be open to learning from others in order to achieve the best possible decisions
- Participants put personal interests aside and make informed decisions for the good of Kansas children and their families

Tasks/Goals:

1. In cooperation with CCL, identify and make recommendations on improvements needed in the current child care licensing system (includes the application process, licensing, inspection process, policies and regulations);
2. Assist in the identification and collection of available research and new data pertaining to health and safety, best practices, and the regulatory process;
3. Make recommendations for maintaining contemporary regulations;
4. Assist in the analysis of pending legislation and existing child care statutes; and
5. Form sub-teams as needed to address issues.

Accountability/Reporting Structure:

This team is accountable to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Child Care Licensing Program. The team's progress will be reported to the Secretary of KDHE. The team's recommendations/ decisions must be approved by the Secretary of KDHE.